

Protocol for NEC Operations Staff

This is intended to provide NEC Group and all Subcontractors staff with guidance to mitigate the risks associated with the exposure to coronavirus disease. There is a lower exposure risk from COVID-19 to the NEC Team as detailed in OSHA 3990, Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19, page 20 “Lower exposure risk (caution) jobs are those that do not require contact with people known to be, or suspected of being, infected with SARS-CoV-2 nor frequent close contact with (i.e., within 6 feet of) the general public. Workers in this category have minimal occupational contact with the public and other coworkers.” However, all staff must follow the safety procedures developed to further minimize exposure risks.

This is still an evolving situation and information will be continually monitored, to revise this Advisory as needed. Consequently, NEC and all Subcontractors will follow the most stringent Federal, State, and Local guidelines issued and will update the Advisory as guidelines are issued.

Field Cleanup Crews

Based on the NEC Emergency Response Plan and all subsequent updates/amendments shall:

- Hold a Mandatory 30-minute COVID-19 training for cleanup crews to cover CDC and CalEPA instructions
- Hold a Mandatory COVID-19 reminder briefing at the beginning of each workday.
- All field staff shall wear a suitable cloth face cover covering their nose and mouth continuously during the workday and when car pooling from and to work.
- Field crew will be supplied with a disinfectant listed in EPA’s List N for Use Against SARS-CoV-2 (<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>). Field crew will utilize the supplied disinfectant to wipe down all surfaces they may touch including equipment and tools prior to starting work and Routinely throughout the day, including shared vehicles as appropriate.
- Clearly marked hand wash stations are provided on all work sites.
- Wash hands frequently.
 - Wash with soap and water for at least 20 seconds,
 - On every work break,
 - Always before eating, drinking, or touching one’s face and
 - Always when departing the site.
- Stay hydrated drink water during work brakes.
- Avoid touching your face with unwashed hands.

Training and Reminders can be conducted remotely via a “video” on each crew member’s phone while the crew is standing a minimum 6 feet apart from each other.

All Staff – Field Cleanup Crews and Field Operations Monitors

Comply with the following:

- Read, review and implement the practices described in the “STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS” COVID-19 advisory posted in NEC offices and all field work sites.

- When monitoring work crews observe cleanup operations from a distance of 6 feet with PPE Level D required.
- Wear a suitable cloth face cover covering your nose and mouth continuously during the workday and when carpooling from and to work.
- Practice Social Distancing – distance of no less than 6 feet away from other people.
- Nitrile surgical gloves are mandatory for all.
- Gloves should be removed every hour and replaced with fresh gloves.
- Wash hands frequently
 - Wash with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
 - Always before eating, drinking, or touching one's face and
 - Always when departing the site.
- Avoid touching your face with unwashed hands.
- **If soap and running water are not available, utilize other available cleaning methods, such as**
 - An alcohol-based hand rub that contains at least 60% alcohol
 - Bottled water, soap, and paper towels carried in your vehicle
 - Always use a company provided disinfectant as listed in EPA's List N for Use Against SARS-CoV-2 (<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>) to:
 - Wipe down surfaces you touch prior to starting work and
 - Routinely throughout the day, including shared vehicles as appropriate.
- Using the disinfectants described above, clean and disinfect at the beginning and end of each day
 - All supplies (pens, clipboards, etc.), tablets, cellphones, reusable equipment and
 - Non-disposable PPE (hardhats, safety glasses, earmuffs),
 - Avoid using other employee's phones and personal work items, when possible.
- Avoid placing items on other surfaces, if possible. Instead, carry a satchel or bag for items you need in the field.
- If you must place items on hard surfaces, such as tables or chairs, place them on clean barriers, such as clean paper towels, first.
- Inspections and other Interactions
 - Avoid handshakes,
 - **No interactions with anybody outside the project,**
 - If inspectors are on-site, make sure distance is maintained with gloves.
- If staff is sick – send them home and ask them to seek medical attention
- If you feel sick – go home and seek medical attention.
- Remain vigilant, be ready to adjust as and when needed, and update safety protocols as needed.

NEC will isolate and compartmentalize staff to the extent possible. The same people will remain in the same crew. This will allow the protection of others if one crew member gets sick and it will reduce the number of people exposed. Having the same teams work together and travel together can limit the spread of a potential outbreak.” (Based on American Industrial Hygiene Association Returning to Work Construction Environment page 3).

Additional resources

- Centers for Disease Control - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- California Department of Public Health: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/>
- California Governor's Office of Emergency Services: <https://www.caloes.ca.gov/>
- Surgeon General Face Covering Video: <https://twitter.com/i/status/1247900137982058496>
- American Industrial Hygiene Association: https://www.aiha.org/public-resources/consumer-resources/coronavirus_outbreak_resources

Refer to Attachment A: Training Material